

SalemRecycles Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2024

6:30pm, City Hall Annex 1st Floor, Conference Room

Appointed Members: Mari Alix, Jen Birenbach (Clerk), Bruce Cohen, Joel Dashnaw (Chair), Catherine Deyo, Demi Fox, Cameron Fullerton, Nancy Gilberg, Carol Hautau (Vice-Chair), Daniell Hepting, Sandy O'Donnell, Lucie Patrowicz, Brian Romer

City Liaison: Janelle Rolke

Attending:

Appointed Members: Bruce Cohen, Joel Dashnaw, Carol Hautau (via remote), Demi Fox, Brian Romer, Cameron Fullerton, Catherine Deyo, Mari Alix, Sandy O'Donnell

City Liaison: Janelle Rolke

Guests: none

Absent: Lucie Patrowicz, Jen Birenbach

Recycling Committee Mission Statement

The mission of SalemRecycles, a committee appointed by the Mayor, is to reduce trash tonnage in the City of Salem by increasing recycling, diverting reusable items, and motivating city stakeholders through education and information.

Old Business

Approve past Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve:

Second:

Vote:

Roll call Vote: Brian, Bruce, Carol, Joel, Mari, Nancy, Catherine, Sandy

Event Recaps

MRF Tour: Catherine & Sandy attended- very informative, impressed with size of facility and amount of recycling processed. Very nice that the mayor attended the tour. Met officials, took the tour and afterwards spoke. Trucks come in with tons of stuff; it's a 3 story warehouse piled high. Sorting section by town at the beginning; we did an audit (sample 1 of 11). Contamination rate from Oct '23 was 9.2%; rate in Feb '24 went down to 8.9%

Trucks take materials to conveyor belts, also pick out nonrecyclables (hamburger wrappings etc.). Belts have 10 people working to eliminate nonrecyclables. Very noisy! Massive amount of material processed. Ended where we could see items baled up in piles to be taken away by buyers - aluminum, paper etc.

Plant doesn't need to shut down as much these days (to remove plastic film from star sorters). If too many items get tangled and clog the machinery, the entire process has to shut down.

Repair Cafe / TerraCycle Collection: 67 appointments booked with 23 more on the waitlist. In the end, 61 appointments done for 50 customers. Feedback for 57 items, 40 repaired: 88% feedback was 5/5. We produced less waste via the coffee situation - Dunks creamers and lids were refused to the dismay of Dunks. Fixers and volunteers and at least one customer brought their own mug.

Next cafe is May 18. City Hall To Go is thrilled to be at our events.

New Events

March 23 Book Swap / Terracycle: we already have 30 volunteers. Friday night has 15 or so (3:30-7), we definitely need more that afternoon as we always get swamped with deliveries and start off behind schedule.

Zero Waste Week: First event is a free business waste audit - never been offered before, we need businesses to sign up. Should take 40-60 minutes on March 20th to go through the process. Restaurants, shops, hotels – a good opportunity for local businesses. Mayor’s office will help spread the word on their Walking Wednesdays.

Salem Main Streets and Chamber of Commerce have socialized this. Everyone who can, should promote this, especially to local business owners you know.

Friday 3/22 is the Salem State Swap, open to all; Saturday 3/23 has 3 events: E-waste at Salem High 8-12; Horace Mann drive through document shredding, 8-12 (there will be a police detail); Book Swap 10-1; 3/24 Keep Salem Beautiful and Beautification Committee litter cleanup @ Gallows Hill 10 – 12.

New Business

Draft agreements: Jen has captured comments and put together a starting doc, like a bylaw.

Mission Statement: some prefer shorter statements; “reduce trash tonnage” is a strong identifier. “Motivation” is an important word. Who are “city stakeholders”? How to encompass businesses and residents? “Community”

The mission of Salem Recycles is to reduce waste by increasing recycling and composting, diverting reusable items and motivating the community through events and education.

What is our name? Salem Recycling Committee - but we do more than that. Some like the specificity of this name. Greensalem.com website - why was that name chosen? “green” is not intuitive or necessarily connected to recycling. People prefer “salemrecycles.com” – “green” could encompass many things.

Recommend: purchased salemrecycles.com and merge / point it from greensalem.com

Should we be “the waste reduction committee”? Beverly has that. “Salem Recycles” could be a nonprofit. Issues with “SalemRecycles” as one word. “Salem Recycling Committee”

Mayor’s New Resident’s Packet

For new homeowners, not for tenants. Trash and recycling is on the second to last page, but nothing about composting. There’s more room on the page to add info about composting.

Landlords should get a certificate of fitness every time they get a new tenant (the health departments conducts this) - opportunity to give info here. New inspection every 3-5 years for rentals by the city after the initial inspection.

Styrofoam Update: (via Joel) Swampscott is interested in joining us and becoming regional, bringing municipalities together to share goals, resources and power.

Newsletter

Lucy and Janelle are working on it: Zero Waste, Book Swap, Green Cleaning for spring, March calendar, recap MRF and what we're reading and listening to.

Open Time

MassRecycle Conference on March 19th - the state's big waste conference, held annually. Joel and Janelle are attending and will give a report at our next meeting.

We could consider publishing knowledge about repair cafes, book swaps etc. to share more broadly to other communities, like how-to guides for running these events.

Reaching out to neighboring communities - Joel to invite Wayne from Swampscott for next month.

Next Agenda Items

- more time on draft agreements
- think about our name - acronym like SWAC?
- vote on mission statement
- progress towards May repair cafe
- Annual volunteer appreciation pizza event at Winter Island in the summer to thank volunteers, play games?

Meeting adjourned